

CONSUMER PROTECTION



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News

July 2002 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In June, 2002, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the WI Bureau of Consumer Protection issued a total of **six (6) recalls** and **two (2) safety advisories relating to products affecting children**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128** and then press **"zero" (0)** to speak with **Product Safety**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 8 "KIDS" recalls and safety advisories by title and identification number:

- ❖ Kohl's Department Stores, Inc. is recalling 6 Sonoma Brand Boys' & Girls' Jackets sold in Wisconsin because of Dangerous Drawstrings.
- ❖ Little Tikes is recalling Pop 'n Scoot Ride-On Toys. #02-175
- ❖ Radio Flyer Inc. is recalling Ride-On Push Cars for Repair. #02-176
- ❖ Specialty Sales Co. Inc. is recalling Novelty Cigarette Lighters.#02-177
- ❖ Graco is recalling Toy Track on Activity Centers. #02-180
- ❖ BY US International Co. is recalling "NEXT" Ultra Shock Bicycles sold at Wal-Mart. #02-183
- ❖ Summer Fun Brings More Emergency Room Visits. #02-182
- ❖ CPSC Urges Consumers to Celebrate Safely on the Fourth. #02-187

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

"KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

WI DATCP Release Date: 06-20-02 Kohl's Department Stores, Inc. is voluntarily recalling about 13,000 children's jackets with illegal drawstrings. The jackets were sold in the boys & girls departments and contain either elastic drawstrings with toggles or shoestring style drawstrings in the hood. The jackets range in size from S, M, L, XL and were sold from December 2001 through May 1, 2002.

The jackets are as follows:

- Boys – JW5001 – Sonoma label – Sizes 8-20 – Colors: Yellow – Price \$30.00
- Boys – AG5003 – Sonoma label – Sizes 4-7 – Colors: Navy, Royal, Orange – Price \$30.00
- Boys – JW5000 & JW5003 – Sonoma label – Sizes 8-20 – Colors: Navy, Black – Price \$30.00
- Girls – AS5500 – SO... GSJC label – Sizes 7-16 – Colors: Lime, Navy, Sky Blue, Daffodil – Price \$26.00
- Girls – AS5000 – SO... GSJC label – Sizes 7-16 – Colors: Jade, Daffodil, Sky Blue, Coral – Price \$32.00

Note: The jackets were sold throughout the US, but are only being recalled in Wisconsin because of the product ban in place under Wisconsin Consumer Product Safety Laws.

Problem: The jackets contain drawstrings that are banned in Wisconsin. Drawstrings can get caught in playground equipment and vehicle doors and cause serious injuries to children.

What to do: Consumers should immediately return the jackets to any Wisconsin Kohl's store for a refund or call Kohl's at 1-800-694-2647 for more information.



Release Number: 02-175 The Little Tikes Company, of Hudson, Ohio, is voluntarily recalling about 21,400 Pop 'n Scoot Ride-on toys. The Pop 'n Scoot Ride-on toy is made of

molded plastic with a clear dome filled with colorful beads attached to the handlebars. The riding toys have a yellow body, a red seat and red handlebars with blue hand-grips. The identification number 32922XX 1 is molded on the underside of the ride-on body. The model number 1568-01 and "Made In U.S.A." is molded on the bottom of the storage area below the red seat. The product was sold for children age 9 months to 36 months old. Toy stores nationwide sold the riding toys from March 2001 through May 13, 2002 for about \$20.

Problem: Young children who lean forward can fall forward over the handlebars, causing facial injuries.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the toys immediately and contact Little Tikes at www.littletikes.com or call (866) 765-6729 anytime to receive a Little Tikes replacement product.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml/02/02175.html>

Release Number: 02-176 Radio Flyer Inc. of Chicago, Ill., is voluntarily recalling about 15,000 Little Wooden Push Cars for repair. . The Little Wooden Push Car is about 24-inches long, 14-inches wide, and 18-inches high. The car has a natural wood body, a red steering wheel column, a red metal bar on the back, and a red plastic horn on the steering wheel. "Radio Flyer" is written on both sides of the car. A child sits in the push car and moves the car with his or her feet. The car is for use by children 1- to 3-years-old. Toy stores, catalogues and web retailers sold these cars nationwide from February 1999 through June 2002 for about \$60. Some of these push cars do not have horns. Only Wooden Push Cars with horns are part of this recall. No other Radio Flyer products are involved in this recall.

Problem: A child can pull the horn off the car's steering wheel, and a small part inside poses a choking hazard

What to do: Consumers should take the recalled cars away from young children immediately and contact Radio Flyer Inc. to receive a replacement steering wheel. For more information, consumers can call Radio Flyer Inc. at (800) 621-7613 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. Consumers also can contact Radio Flyer Inc. at www.radioflyer.com or by e-mail at 218Repair@RadioFlyer.com.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02176.html>

Release Number: 02-177 Specialty Sales Co. Inc., of Castro Valley, Calif., is recalling about 6,000 novelty cigarette lighters. This recall involves two types of lighters. The first type is a refillable, liquid-fueled lighter with various decals depicting one of the following: a frog with a banjo sitting on a lily, a man in the moon, Tweety Bird, a unicorn, and a skull and crossbones. "Made in China" is written on a label on these lighters. The second type of lighter is a refillable, gas-fueled, piezo-electric lighter with a dolphin molded on the side. The dolphin's head serves as a hinged cover for the ignition button and flame port. There is no writing on these lighters. Convenience and liquor stores and gas station food markets in northern California sold these lighters from March 1999 through April 2002 for about \$4.

Problem: These lighters do not have child-resistant mechanisms, as required by federal law. Young children could ignite the lighters, posing fire and burn hazards.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these lighters immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call Specialty Sales Co. Inc. collect at (510) 581-3869 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02177.html>

Release Number: 02-180 Graco Children's Products, Inc., of Elverson, Pa., is voluntarily recalling about 152,000 toy tracks attached to children's activity centers. The recalled activity centers include the Tot Wheels V, models 4511 and 4521, and the Convertible Entertainer, models 4652 and 35225. The model numbers and the words, "made in U.S.A." are printed on a label on the underside of the tray on the activity centers. The green wavy toy track sits on the tray of the activity center. Five objects spin and slide along the toy track. Discount, department and juvenile product stores sold the activity centers nationwide from November 2001 through May 2002 for between \$30 and \$70.

Problem: The toy track can break, presenting a cut or pinch hazard and exposed small parts pose a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these activity centers with toy tracks immediately, and contact Graco to receive a free replacement track. For more information, consumers can contact Graco at (800) 673-0392 anytime or visit the firm's web site at www.gracobaby.com



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02180.html>

Release Number: 02-183 BY US International Co. Ltd., of Taiwan, is voluntarily recalling about 132,000 Next Ultra Shock mountain bicycles with "Ballistic 105" front suspension forks. Dynacraft Industries Inc., of San Rafael, Calif., was the sole distributor of these bicycles. CPSC previously announced the recall of about 103,000 of these forks sold on

bicycles manufactured by Brunswick Corp. The recall includes only Next Ultra Shock bicycles, which are blue, with model numbers 8524-14 and 8526-20. They were manufactured between April 1999 and November 9, 1999. A label affixed to the frame near the crank housing identifies the model and date of manufacture. The name "Ultra Shock" is written on the bicycle down tube in white lettering. Wal-Mart stores nationwide sold these mountain bikes from May 1999 through December 2000 for about \$150. Next Ultra Shock bicycles manufactured after November 9, 1999, did not use BY US International-made Ballistic forks, and are not subject to this recall.

Problem: BY US International Co. Ltd. manufactured the forks on these bicycles that can break apart, causing riders to lose control, fall and suffer serious injury.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these bicycles immediately and call Dynacraft Industries toll free at (800) 288-1560 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or visit their web site at www.dynacraftbike.com for information on receiving a free replacement fork and free installation.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml02/02183.html>

Release Number: 02-182 For many Americans, summer means fun in the sun. The kids are out of school, adults are on vacation and it's time for outdoor activities like riding bikes and hosting barbecues. However, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warns that summer also is the time of year consumers are most likely to be injured.

More than 3.7 million consumers went to hospital emergency rooms with product-related injuries in June, July and August 2001. During that summer, about 836,000 more consumers suffered product-related injuries than in January,

February and March 2001. To avoid becoming a 2002 statistic, CPSC advises everyone to enjoy summer activities with safety in mind.

CPSC Summer Safety Tips

- One of the best ways to stay safe this summer is to wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating and skateboarding, and when riding scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and horses. Studies on bicycle helmets have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.
- Use layers of protection to prevent a swimming pool tragedy. This includes placing barriers completely around your pool to prevent access, using door and pool alarms, closely supervising your child and being prepared in case of an emergency.
- Never bring charcoal grills indoors. Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.
- When cooking outdoors with a gas grill, check the air tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing. If you ever detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed. Newer grills and propane tanks have improved safety devices to prevent gas leaks.
- Make sure your home playground is safe. Falls cause 60 percent of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical. Concrete, asphalt or packed dirt surfaces are too hard. Use at least 9 inches of wood chips or mulch.
- Use softer-than standard baseballs, safety-release bases and batting helmets with face guards to reduce baseball-related injuries to children.
- If you are a soccer mom or dad, beware that movable soccer goals can fall over and kill children. Make sure the goal is anchored securely at all times and never allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework or hang from the cross bar. Remove nets when the goals are not in use.
- To prevent serious injuries while using a trampoline, allow only one person on at a time, and do not allow somersaults. Use a shock-absorbing pad that completely covers the springs and place the trampoline away from structures and other play areas. Kids

under 6-years-old should not use full-size trampolines.

- Don't allow a game of hide-n-seek to become deadly. CPSC has received reports of numerous suffocation deaths involving children who crawled inside old cedar chests, latch-type freezers and refrigerators, iceboxes in campers, clothes dryers and picnic coolers. Childproof old appliances, warn children not to play inside them.
- If summer plans include camping and you want heat inside your tent or camper, use one of the new portable heaters that are equipped with an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS). If oxygen levels start to fall inside your tent or camper, the ODS automatically shuts down the heater before it can produce deadly levels of carbon monoxide (CO). Do not attempt to use alternative sources of heat or power to warm a tent or camper. Traditional camping heaters, charcoal grills, camping lanterns, and gas generators also can cause CO poisoning.
- Install window guards to prevent children from falling out of open windows. Guards should be installed in children's bedrooms, parents' bedrooms, and other rooms where young children spend time. Or, install window stops that permit windows to open no more than 4 inches. Whenever possible, open windows from the top - not the bottom. Also, keep furniture away from windows to discourage children from climbing near windows.
- Summer also means yard work. When mowing, keep small children out of the yard, and turn the mower off if children enter the area. If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope with the walk-behind rotary mower, never up and down. With a riding mower, drive up and down the slope, not across it. Never carry children on a riding mower.
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02182.html>

Release Number: 02-187 In the wake of the events of September 11th, many Americans are planning to display their patriotism on the Fourth of July in a big way. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges consumers to celebrate safely by not purchasing illegal fireworks and by adhering to CPSC safety tips on using legal ones. Commission data

revealed the results can be a severe burn, blinding, amputation, and even death.

An analysis prepared by CPSC staff reveals that last year (2001), hospital emergency rooms treated about 9500 people or fireworks-related injuries. The number of injuries has decreased significantly from the highs of 1992-94, when injuries averaged 12,500 a year. From 1994 to 2001, the number of fireworks injuries fell by one fourth, from 12,500 to 9,500.

If consumer fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- A responsible adult should closely supervise all fireworks activities.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks. Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Light one item at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never try to re-light fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them in metal or glass containers.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose handy in case of a malfunction or fire.
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02187.html>

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at <http://datcp.state.wi.us> or contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us. Please be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, contact:
WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,
Regulation & Safety Section
1-800-422-7128 (toll free in Wisconsin)
or (608) 224-4988